



# REPORT

## THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO TO THE PARK AND RECREATION BOARD

---

DATE ISSUED:

REPORT NO: 101

ATTENTION: Park and Recreation Board  
Agenda of October 21, 2010

SUBJECT: Ellen Browning Scripps Memorial Park General Development Plan Update

### SUMMARY

Issue – Should the Park and Recreation Board recommend approval of the Ellen Browning Scripps Memorial Park General Development Plan Update?

Director's Recommendation – Recommend approval of the proposed Ellen Browning Scripps Memorial Park General Development Plan Update.

Other Recommendations – The following groups have reviewed, considered and approved the proposed GDP.

La Jolla Town Council – June 2010  
La Jolla Parks and Beaches – July 2010  
Community Planning Association – November 2009  
La Jolla Park & Recreation, Inc. – November 2009  
Promote La Jolla – October 2009  
Facilities Access Review Subcommittee – City of San Diego

Fiscal Impact – None. This plan update is not a project.

Water and Energy Conservation Status – The proposed General Development Plan Update will comply with all water and energy conservation guidelines contained in Council Policy 200-14.

Environmental – This activity is categorically exempt from CEQA pursuant to State CEQA Guidelines Sections 15301 and 15303.

## BACKGROUND

Ellen Browning Scripps Memorial Park is one of the acknowledged jewels in the City's park system. The 5.6 acre park is bounded by the Pacific Ocean and La Jolla Cove to the north and east, and Coast Boulevard to the south and west. The park is primarily an open spaced landscaped environment heavily used by local residents and visitors from around the world. Beyond this, the park also includes the spectacular dynamic interface to the offshore waters and La Jolla Cove which are a recreational, environmental and ecological resource of worldwide importance.

Increasingly, the park is subject to the impact of heavy use. In 1989 a Preliminary Coastal Plan was created by the La Jolla Town Council and has been used by local community groups to guide local development. Although the plan made specific recommendations pertinent to the coastline around the Park, it concluded that the park itself merited more detailed analysis. No further action was taken in this regard until 2001 when the Scripps Park Project (SPP), a group of interested local citizens, adopted as its mission to **“develop and implement a long-term comprehensive plan to preserve, restore, and enhance Ellen Browning Scripps Memorial Park, incorporating extensive community involvement.”** Activities in support of this goal included extensive research related to history, development and usage, fundraising, workshops, public meetings and an inclusive process that has resulted in the proposed Scripps Park Plan that has been endorsed by all the groups listed above.

## DISCUSSION

The Scripps Park Plan is a 33 page document detailing goals and objectives for the park as well as a comprehensive strategy for implementation. It contains detailed guidelines which serve as strategic policies as well as specific short, medium and long range actions for their implementation. The proposed General Development Plan is an integral part of the Scripps Park Plan because it incorporates its policies into a Park and Recreation Department document and updates the existing GDP which hasn't been updated since 1989.

Comparison of the new GDP with the existing 1989 GDP shows very little change in the overall layout of the park. The update incorporates the previous removal of the shuffleboard courts and provides for a realignment of the comfort station to open up the view corridors to the cove area from the interior of the park. Some limited re-contouring of the turf area will decrease stormwater runoff over the sensitive bluffs and reduce erosion. The proposed GDP also realigns the bluff top walkway back from the edge of the bluff that has retreated due to surface erosion and will incorporate more sensitive native landscaping, irrigation improvements and up to date stormwater runoff controls.

ALTERNATIVES

1. Recommend approval of the revised GDP for Ellen Browning Scripps Memorial Park with additional conditions.
2. Do not recommend approval of the revised GDP for Ellen Browning Scripps Memorial Park.

Respectfully submitted,

---

Kathleen Hasenauer  
Deputy Director,  
Developed Regional Parks Division

---

Prepared by:  
Paul Jacob, Associate Civil Engineer  
Asset Management

(PJJ)

Attachments: Existing General Development Plan (1989)  
Proposed General Development Plan Update

cc: Council District 1 Office

Pacific Ocean

CLUBHOUSE

REST ROOM

COVE

BLVD

COAST

0 40 80  
GRAPHIC SCALE IN FEET

A vertical line with tick marks at 0, 40, and 80 feet. The text "GRAPHIC SCALE IN FEET" is written vertically along the line.

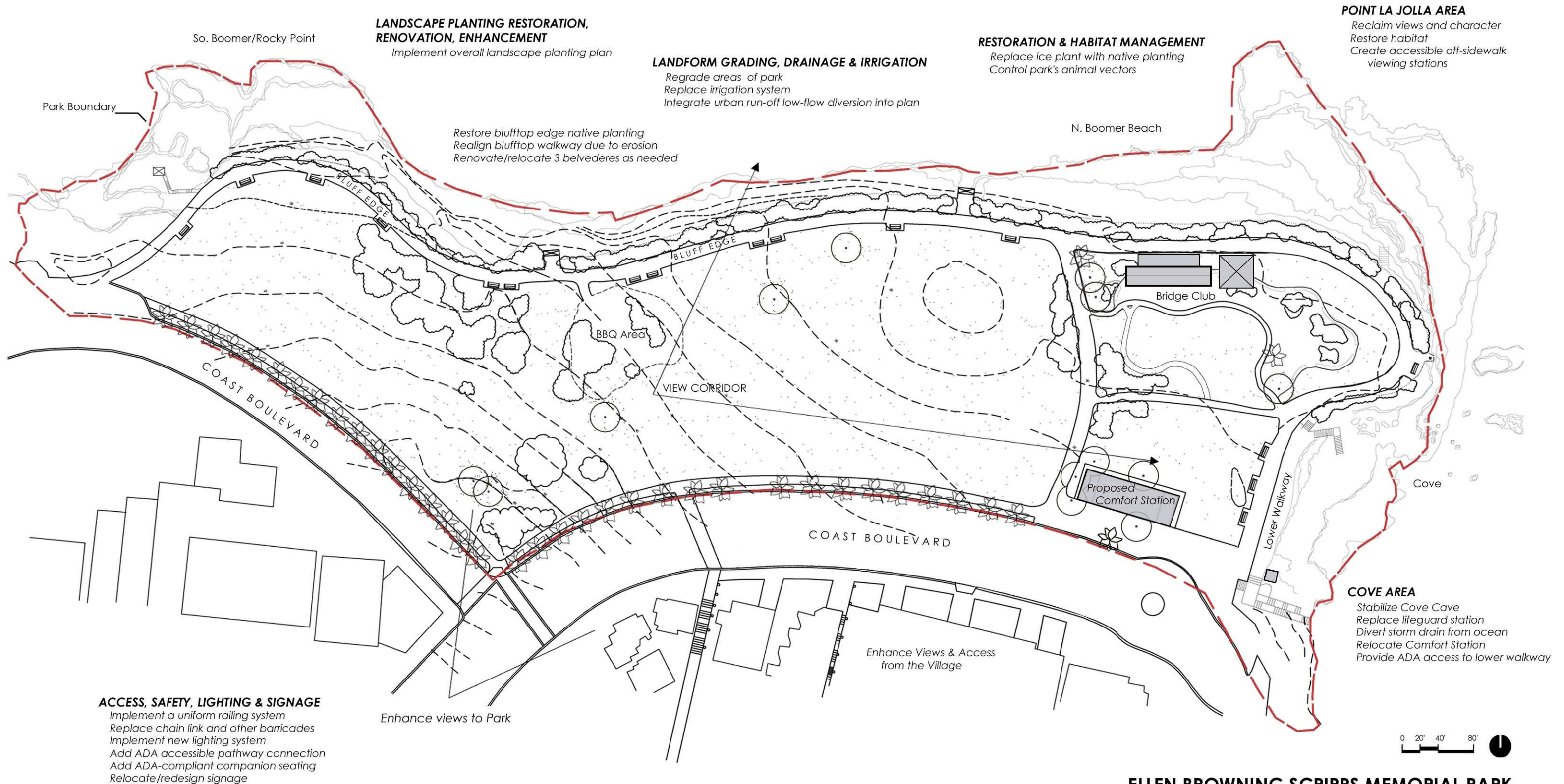
[illegible]



## SCRIPPS PARK PLAN

Develop Park as a Work of Art; restore and improve views and enhance public access  
Preserve, protect and enhance natural landscapes and ecology  
Ensure compatible future design with natural environment, historical landscape and institute sustainable design practices  
Secure funding to implement Plan

"...an environmental and ecological resource  
of worldwide significance."



## ELLEN BROWNING SCRIPPS MEMORIAL PARK General Development Plan

Campbell & Campbell  
Architects • Landscape Architects • Planners  
1425 Fifth St. • Santa Monica, California 90401

Refer to Scripps Park Plan for Design Guidelines



